

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	29 th April 2011
Location	Michael's home, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Fahy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Kilchreest NS, Co. Galway Secondary: De la Salle College, Loughrea, Co. Galway Third Level: UCG
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Ann) & 3 sons
Club(s)	Kilconieron GAA Club [Galway]; Galway GAA Club New York [Americas]; Loughrea GAA [Galway]; St Patrick's GAA, Toronto [Americas]
Occupation	Retired Secondary School Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Chairman of Loughrea Historical Society; Ireland Reaching Out Project; Teachers Golf Alliance; Irish Argentinean Society

Date of Report	5 th July 2012
Period Covered	1800s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Galway, Americas, USA, Canada
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Michael talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He discusses growing up in Kilconierin near Loughrea and the role of the GAA in the area. He talks about going to the De La Salle school in Loughrea and playing hurling illegally in Kilchreest. Michael discusses moving to New York and getting involved the GAA before moving to Toronto and being a part of the founding of the St Pat's club. He talks about returning to Ireland and starting teaching job in Woodford and getting involved in hurling in the school, the highlight of which was winning an All-Ireland 'B' in 2001. Michael describes the various administrative roles he has held in Connacht hurling and the work involved in these roles. He discusses travelling to Argentina and talks about the history of hurling in that country. Towards the end of the interview he talks about the role of the GAA in his life and what his involvement has meant to him.</p> <p>00:15 Michael talks about growing up in Glenathulan in Loughrea in the parish of Kilconierin. Playing minor hurling in Kilchreest.</p> <p>01:13 Describes the role of hurling in the area during the 1960s. Going to the De La Salle school in Loughrea. Mentions Brother Brenadeen.</p> <p>02:25 Discusses the prominence of hurling in the De La Salle school.</p> <p>03:00 Recalls the players he looked up to when he was younger, players like Fergie Benson, Mike Sweeney, Mickey Carton, Joe Lyons, Joe Salmon, Jim Fives, Mickey Cullinan, Frank Coffey.</p>

	<p>04:39 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA. Grand uncle Frank Fahy involved in the GAA in Kerry, later Ceann Comhairle.</p> <p>05:43 Recalls listening to Michael O'Hehir on the radio and cycling to matches.</p> <p>06:20 Talks about football in the area. Playing soccer in school.</p> <p>06:41 Describes how rugby was popular in Loughrea. Mentions Ciarán Fitzgerald.</p> <p>07:24 Discusses the history of the Kilconierin GAA club and the book he wrote on the subject.</p> <p>10:00 Talks about his playing career. Playing illegal with Kilchreest. Going to college in Galway. Moving to America and Canada. Teaching in Woodford in Ireland.</p> <p>11:31 Recalls playing with the Galway club in New York and with St Pat's in Toronto. Mentions Frank and Frankie Sheehan.</p> <p>12:40 Discussing moving to New York. Meeting players in Gaelic Park and getting work.</p> <p>14:00 Talks about the standard of hurling in New York when he was there. Mentions John Maher, Mike Curtain, Paddy Egan, Mike Bermingham.</p> <p>14:55 Discusses the clubs in New York.</p> <p>15:55 Describes the type of work he did in New York. Working in bars in Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan. Working in the Cedar Inn near the World Trade Centre and going to the top.</p> <p>17:20 Discusses moving to Canada to work as a teacher.</p> <p>19:05 Talks about his involvement in setting up the St Pat's club in Toronto in 1968. Garryowen club also in the city.</p> <p>20:32 Discusses his involvement in hurling in University College Galway, playing in the Fitzgibbon Cup.</p> <p>21:09 Talks about travelling to Belfast in the 1960s.</p> <p>21:37 Discusses returning to Ireland to teach in Woodford.</p> <p>22:40 Talks about his involvement in the school's hurling teams. Being a small school and playing bigger schools. Recalls how students from Tommy Larkins club came to the</p>
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	<p>school in the 1990s. Beating Callan CBS in Swords to win the All-Ireland senior 'B' championship in 2001. The different competitions they won. Mentions Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Maurice O'Brien,</p> <p>25:25 Talks about the deaths of Paul Flynn and Barry Sheele who were on that school team.</p> <p>26:26 Discusses the relationship between sport and students and how his relationship was affected by his role in hurling. The role of the Tommy Larkins club in the school.</p> <p>28:50 Highlights the impact of the All-Ireland on the school's identity.</p> <p>30:18 Describes his administrative roles with Connacht Colleges and different boards. Becoming hurling secretary for Connacht. Organising a trip to America for the development squad with John Fahy.</p> <p>32:05 Talks about the establishment of the GAA's post-primary schools committee in every county. Mentions Bernie O'Connor and Bride Noonan.</p> <p>33:20 Discusses the main developments in the role of sports and administration in schools. Problems with costs and timetables.</p> <p>36:08 Gives his opinion on schools' competitions. Mentions the Regan, Ryan, Harty and Croke Cup.</p> <p>37:17 Discusses his involvement in the Irish Argentine Society. Chairman of the local history society. Talks about Father Anthony Fahy who left the area to go to Argentina in the 1800s. Travelling to Argentina to give a talk with the Admiral Brown Society. Talks about hurling in Argentina and the different clubs. Mentions Dermot Earley, Jay Joe O'Hara</p> <p>41:47 Highlights winning the schools' All-Ireland as his favourite memory in the GAA. Talk about the role of the GAA in his life.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/22

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played underage hurling with Kilchreest NS and minor hurling with Kilchreest GAA; played from underage to age 34yrs with Kilconieran GAA; Played with St Pat's in Toronto in the summers of 1968-69. Played with Galway team in New York in the summers of 1970-77. Won the New York Junior Championship playing with the New York Galway team in 1972.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Coached and managed many teams including Woodford school teams. Schools Representative on the Connaught Colleges Board (1975-2001); Connaught Schools Hurling Secretary (2001 – 2009); Colleges Representative on Galway County Board; Chairman of Galway Port Primary Schools Committee (2009-current)
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:43:38
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 5th July 2012